

Version 2.0: 20Jul04		RI Mercury Reduction Commission 6/18/2004 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM RI DEM Conference Room A in Providence RI	
Type of meeting:		Meeting #2	Note: Open Action Items Summarized On Last Two Pages
Attendees:		Commission Members Present: Marcella Thompson (Chair), Peter Bleasby, Kate Canada, Sheila Dormody, Terrance Gray, Ron Gagnon (for Terrance Gray), Susan Kaplan (for Michael McMahon), Andrew Knapp, Jason Linnel, Jamie Magnani (for Dan Beardsley), Nicholas Tsiongas, and Robert Vanderslice (for Patrician Nolan). Eugenia Marks and Howard Rosenberg Commission Members Excused: Susan Kaplan (for Michael McMahon) Commission Members Absent: Sherry Mulhearn Commission's Keeper of the Notes: Elizabeth Stone Guests: Beverly Migliore, John Hogan	
----- Agenda Topics -----			
Agenda Review & Introduction of Commission Members			1 of 8 pages
Discussion:			
Call to order by Marcella Thompson, Commission Chair at 10:05 am. Meeting agenda reviewed; one new business item added: House resolution instructing Commission to address the issue of mercury in motor vehicles. Brief discussion on how to proceed, including consideration of sub-committee. Introduction of commission members and other meeting attendees. All attendees please sign-in and provide e-mail addresses on circulating roster.			
Conclusions:			
Not Applicable			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
Not Required			
Review of Meetings Calendar 2004			
Discussion: Chair Thompson recommends morning meetings (10am – 12pm) on the third Friday of each month with keeping the fourth Friday of each month available as alternate or additional meeting time when necessary. Chair Thompson suggested the Commission meet on June 25 th .			
Conclusions:			
Unable to schedule an additional meeting for June 25 as there were too many scheduling conflicts for most commission members.			
Meeting Calendar for 2004: July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17.			
Action items:		Person responsible:	Deadline:
Not Required			

Acceptance of May Meeting Minutes

2 of 8 pages

Discussion: Chair Thompson entertains motion to approve May meeting minutes. Brief discussion and clarification of language/issue of mercury emissions coming into RI from outside the state. May Meeting Minutes amended to note change from absent to excused for Eugenia Marks and Howard Rosenberg.

Conclusions:

May Meeting Minutes voted to accept May meeting minutes as amended above.

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Compose June meeting minutes, distribute electronically and address feedback comments with the commission members.	E. Stone and M. Thompson	7/02/04
Post final May meeting minutes on website	E. Stone	6/21/04

Commission Website

Discussion: All appropriate contributions to commission's website from Commission members and meeting attendees are welcome – forward to Chair electronically at Marcy_Thompson@yahoo.com.

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
1. Post two articles: <i>EPA Delays Ruling on Mercury</i> (Reprinted in the Providence Journal from the Washington Post) and <i>Mercury Issue Takes Wing</i> (Wall Street Journal, June 9, 2004).	E. Stone	July 31
2. Commission Website: http://www.state.ri.us/dem/hgcomm/index.html		

Overview of Mission Statement

Discussion: Brief review of mission statement as discussed at May Meeting.

Conclusions:

None Required

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Not Required		

Final Discussion 23-24.9-11

Discussion: E. Stone contacted Ric Rosati (local representative for the Soap and Detergent Manufacturers Association). He reiterated the association's interest in keeping the healthcare reporting language in RIGL 23-24.9-11. The association is not suggesting or seeking any changes at this time.

Conclusions:

Commission unanimously recommends no changes to this section.

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
CLOSED		

Discussion: Chair Thompson received suggestions and information about the proposed revisions of sections stayed under July 9, 2003. Wording from State of Washington reviewed.

CHANGE: (2) paragraph 1 to read: The department shall adopt rules to establish standards for affixing labels to the product and product package. The rules shall be consistent with labeling programs in other states and provide for approval of alternative compliance plans by the department.

ADD to (2) new paragraph 2 to read: The manufacturer of a mercury-added product is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection if the manufacturer is in compliance with the labeling requirements of another state. (*)

CHANGE: (3) paragraph 2 to read: This subsection does not apply to ~~mercury-added lamps~~, mercury-added button cell batteries and products whose only mercury component is a mercury button cell battery or a mercury-added lamp. (**)

Date of Compliance: will companies be able to comply by 7/01/05? HOLD FOR LATER DISCUSSION.

Conclusions:

Commission unanimously recommends change to (2) paragraph 1 as stated above.

(*) New paragraph needs additional wording to clarify that requirements of another state does NOT include those states NOT requiring labels.

(**) Discussion ongoing re continuing the exemption of products whose only mercury component is a mercury-added lamp.

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Submit additional wording to use in new (2) paragraph 2 regarding provision about complying with other states' laws and closing loophole.	ALL	7/03/04
Decide whether labeling exemption should include products whose only mercury component is a mercury-added lamp.	ALL	7/16/04

How are other states addressing this issue?

Open Discussion of sections stayed under July 9, 2003: 23-24.9-9: Disposal Bans and 23-24.9-10: Collection

Discussion regarding: Application of disposal ban to households. Peter Bleasby reported on Minnesota's lamp recycling success and Maine's implementation of their disposal ban. A motion was made to take a vote on removing the disposal ban exemption for households disposing of lamps. It was argued the Commission should wait to make a final decision on this issue until it has had adequate time to review mercury laws from other states.

Household Consumers:

How much mercury waste do households generate? (15 – 30% of total) Quantify amount generated.

How much household hazardous waste ends up in the landfill? (Need NJ Data)

What percentage of households comply with existing recycling requirements (for other products)? (RI RRC to provide)

Is possible decision not to exempt household consumers reasonably enforceable? (Decide whether or not to attach violation for non-compliance by household consumers).

Medical Specialty Film:

Initial discussion regarding possible disposal ban exemption of medical specialty film. Individual case may be addressed as an exemption in section 23-24.9-7. Need more information.

Conclusions:

This Commission cannot continue to fulfill its mission with meaningful purpose without the attendance and participation of the RIRRC.

Need to understand, quantify and identify the various costs associated with mercury. The economics of removing mercury from the environment need to be factored into these policy decisions.

Action items:

	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the questions listed above.	ALL	7/16/04
Decide whether households should be exempt from the disposal ban (policy)		
Decide whether or not to attach violation for non-compliance by household consumers.		
Prepare to discuss motor vehicle disposal ban.		
Contact manufacturer of medical specialty film for details.	M. Thompson	7/16/04
Ensure attendance and participation of RI RRC at Commission meetings.	M. Thompson	7/16/04
Recommend policy/procedure for appropriate collection of mercury-added products on the state level and define role of RI RRC.	T. Gray, R. Vanderslice	7/16/04
Identify and provide information on existing mercury-related collection efforts inside and outside of RI and their capabilities/capacities.	ALL	7/16/04

Discussion: House Resolution 8639: Respectfully Urging the Mercury Reduction Oversight Commission to Prevent Mercury Pollution from Auto Parts.

Initial discussion regarding existing disposal ban exemption of motor vehicles.

Existing ME legislation reviewed briefly. Terms hold auto manufacturers responsible for cost (\$1.00 each).

Request for “car anatomy” and other related information for review in preparation for discussion at next meeting.

Jack Hogan represents the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers. He indicated his willingness to work with the commission.

Recommendation made to create a sub-committee to examine specific issues raised by the House Resolution.

Conclusions:

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Obtain more detailed logistical and economic information re Maine’s program	ALL S. Dormody	20Jul04
Diagram of car anatomy pointing to various parts that contain mercury.	J. Hogan	20Jul04
Prepare a written presentation representing the Alliance’s position on this issue. Forward to Chair Thompson as soon as possible.		

Good Questions

Discussion: Howard Rosenberg requests that the origination of mercury sources outside of RI be placed on the agenda for future discussion. The following are questions whose answers will be needed for basis of future discussion. There is a growing trend among companies to phase-out the use of mercury in products particularly because of laws adopted by states such as Rhode Island.

How much mercury is currently in the RI environment (air, water, soil, sentinel species)?

What are the sources of mercury (international/ interstate/regional/intrastate)?

What are the contributing percentage(s) from these sources?

What is the time life cycle for mercury in the environment?

How much of an effect will this legislation have on reducing environmental mercury? Timeline?

What are the systems relationship between the sources of mercury and total impact on environment and health?

What manufacturers have voluntarily phased out mercury?

What is the dose/response relationship of mercury exposure?

Provide inventory of mercury emissions in RI.

Summarize what levels other states/countries are phasing out and/or exempting.

What does the NEWMOA registry reflect for mercury amounts in products?

Conclusions:

These questions will need to be answered adequately in order for the Commission to complete its mission.

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Submit additional pertinent questions and requests for mercury-related data to Chair.	ALL	7/10/04
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the questions listed above.	ALL	7/16/04
Outline the commission’s final report for next meeting.	M. Thompson	

Discussion: None

Conclusions:

Not Required

Action items:

Submit recommendations for agenda to Chair.

Establish July agenda.

Post as required by law.

Forward comments, suggestions and information to Chair Thompson
(Marcy_Thompson@yahoo.com)

Person responsible:

ALL

M. Thompson

E. Stone

ALL

Deadline:

7/03/04

Adjournment

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:05 pm.

Recorded by Elizabeth S. Stone of RI DEM

Reviewed and Edited by Marcella R. Thompson, Chair

Status of All Open Action Items from May Meeting

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Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
E-mail updated roster to all Commission members.	M. Thompson	DONE
RI DEM to reserve meeting room and computer projector for the meeting calendar dates	E. Stone	DONE
Compose May meeting minutes, distribute electronically and address feedback comments with the commission members.	E. Stone and M. Thompson	DONE
Setup motion/vote for approving the final draft of meeting minutes	M. Thompson	DONE
Post approved May meeting minutes on website	E. Stone	OPEN
RIDEM to contact RI hospitals and Soap & Detergent Manufacturers regarding the level of their satisfaction with language adopted.	T. Gray	DONE
Review wording from other states for adoption into RIGL 23-249-8.	ALL	DONE
Decide whether warning in enclosed instructions (where already provided) is acceptable for products whose only mercury component is a mercury-added lamp.	ALL	DONE
Provide qualitative and quantitative information regarding the following: How much mercury waste do households generate? (15 - 30%) Quantify. How much household hazardous waste ends up in the landfill? (Need NJ Data)	ALL	OPEN
What percentage of households comply with existing recycling requirements (for other products)? (RI RRC to provide)	RI RRC	
Is possible decision not to exempt household consumers reasonably enforceable? How to address this issue?		
Recommend policy/procedure for appropriate collection of mercury-added products on the state level and define role of RI RRC.	T. Gray, R. Vanderslice	OPEN
Provide information on all existing mercury-related collection efforts inside and outside of RI.	ALL	OPEN
Add periodic review of the regulatory calendar issue to monthly agenda	M. Thompson	DONE
Submit recommendations for agenda to Chair.	ALL	DONE
Establish June agenda.	M. Thompson	DONE
Post as required by law.	E. Stone	DONE
Contact RI RRC regarding importance of their attendance at meetings.	M. Thompson	DONE

Status of All Open Action Items from June Meeting

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Action Item:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Compose June meeting minutes, distribute electronically and address feedback comments with the commission members.	M. Thompson E. Stone	DONE
Submit additional wording to use in new (2) paragraph 2	ALL	7/16/04
Decide whether labeling exemption should include products whose only mercury component is a mercury-added lamp.	ALL	7/16/04
How are other states addressing this issue?		
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the questions listed on page 4 of June's meeting minutes.	ALL	7/16/04
Decide whether households should be exempt from the disposal ban (policy)		
Decide whether or not to attach violation for non-compliance by household consumers.		
Prepare to discuss motor vehicle disposal ban.	ALL	
Obtain more detailed logistical and economic information re Maine's program	Dormody	
Diagram of car anatomy pointing to various parts that contain mercury.	Hogan	
Prepare a written presentation representing the Alliance's position on this issue. Forward to Chair Thompson as soon as possible.	Hogan	
Ensure attendance and participation of RI RRC at Commission meetings.	M. Thompson	DONE
Submit additional pertinent questions and requests for mercury-related data to Chair.	ALL	7/10/04
Provide qualitative and quantitative information for the questions listed on page 5 of June meeting minutes.	ALL	7/16/04
How much mercury is currently in the RI environment (air, water, soil, sentinel species)?		
What are the sources of mercury (international/interstate/regional/intrastate)?		
What are the contributing percentage(s) from these sources?		
What is the time life cycle for mercury in the environment?		
How much of an effect will this legislation have on reducing environmental mercury? Timeline?		
What are the systems relationship between the sources of mercury and total impact on environment and health?		
What manufacturers have voluntarily phased out mercury?		
What is the dose/response relationship of mercury exposure?		
Provide inventory of mercury emissions in RI.		
Summarize what levels other states/countries are phasing out and/or exempting.		
What does the NEWMOA registry reflect for mercury amounts in products?		
Submit recommendations for July agenda to Chair.	ALL	DONE
Establish July agenda.	M. Thompson	
Post as required by law.	E. Stone	

END